

**Certification Statement Regarding  
Suspension/Debarment Status of a Vendor**

A special certification statement is required from any vendor or food service management company with which a sponsor has a contract that will result in \$25,000 or more in payment. The form should be kept on file by the sponsor.

The certification statement is intended to assure that sponsor that neither the vendor nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from participation in the contract by any Federal department or agency.

A suspension and debarment certification is not required from a vendor if the sponsor's contract with them has a value of less than \$25,000. However, we encourage sponsors to exercise their option to use the certification statement to inquire whether any vendors or their principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, and declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from participation in a contract by any Federal department or agency.

This USDA requirement was made in response to findings that there was widespread price-fixing by dairy companies selling milk to school districts.

A copy of a sample certification form is on the following page and can be reproduced for your use. Keep in mind that this certification form should be filled out by the vendor, not the sponsor.